GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:43
ANSWERED ON:26.02.2016
Zika Virus
Ahlawat Smt. Santosh;Dev Km. Sushmita

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Health Organisation (WHO) has declared Zika virus as international public health emergency and issued warning to contain spread of this virus in various countries including India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has constituted a joint monitoring group and also prepared plan to monitor the spread of Zika virus in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the terms and references of the joint monitoring group and the system/method proposed to be adopted for monitoring the spread of this virus; and

(e) the details of the instructions issued by the Union Government to States to deal with the Zika virus along with the various other steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to prevent entry of Zika virus in the country?

Answer

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 43* FOR 26TH FEBRUARY, 2016

(a) & (b) World Health Organization(WHO) has declared Zika virus disease to be a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) on 1st February, 2016, based on circumstantial evidence that neurological disorders, including microcephaly and Guillain Barre Syndrome (GBS), are linked to Zika virus infection.

WHO has recommended enhanced Surveillance for Microcephaly and GBS and to intensify research into the etiology of new clusters of microcephaly and other neurological disorders to determine whether there is a causative link to Zika virus.

(c) to (e) A Joint Monitoring Group (JMG) is in existence under Director General of Health Services for monitoring and instituting appropriate public health measures for Influenzas and other emerging diseases like Ebola Virus Disease, Middle East Respiratory Syndrome, Zika virus disease etc. This Group comprises experts drawn from Department of Health and its institutions like AIIMS; National Centre for Disease Control; Department of Health Research; Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries; Ministry of Environment and Forests; and other co-opted experts as and when required. This Group has been monitoring the situation arising from the reported cases of Zika virus disease in certain countries. Till date this disease is not reported from India. Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India has taken action based on the recommendations of the JMG and the inputs received from WHO.
In addition to the JMG, Review meetings have been held at the level of Union Secretary, Department of Health and Family Welfare and the Union Health and Family Welfare Minister. Technical guidelines and travel advisory were issued and disseminated on 2nd February, 2016 and also made available on the website of the Ministry. States where Dengue transmission is on, namely Maharashtra, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, UT of Puducherry have been alerted (as the mosquito which transmits Dengue also transmits Zika virus disease). National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), Delhi is the nodal agency for investigation of outbreak in any part of the country. Fifteen International Airports and nine major ports have displayed signages providing information for travelers on Zika virus disease and advising the travellers to report if they are returning from any of the affected countries and suffering from febrile illness. Immigration authorities at these Airports have been sensitized. Directorate General of Civil Aviation, Ministry of Civil Aviation, has issued instruction to all international airlines to follow the recommended aircraft disinsection guidelines. The Airport Health Officers are monitoring appropriate vector control measures in Airport premises and in the defined perimeter. National Centre for Disease Control, Delhi, and National Institute of Virology (NIV), Pune, have established the capacity to provide laboratory diagnosis of Zika virus disease in acute febrile stage. National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme has alerted all its field units for enhanced vector (Aedes mosquitoes) control. National AIDS Control Organization has issued advisory for blood banks and potential blood donors to prevent transmission of Zika virus infection by blood transfusion. A 24x7 control room cum Help Line is functioning from Dte GHS. Public has been made aware about Zika virus disease through press releases issued by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

The situation is being monitored regularly.

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